

# Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 20: May 14 — May 20



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

## COVID-19 Trends

During Week 20, COVID-19 levels for Okaloosa have plateaued.

With the discontinuation of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, the Community Level has been retired, as well as the *COVID-19 in Okaloosa County* page of this WDSR. DOH-Okaloosa will continue to provide the COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community and the COVID-19 Community Transmission Level. For more information on the recommended actions based on the current levels, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage. For more information on data and reporting changes, please visit the [CDC website dedicated to the end of the PHE Declaration](#).

On April 19, 2023, the CDC issued a [media statement](#) focusing on simplifying COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. Please visit the media statement for information regarding vaccination of young children and alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

## ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa increased slightly for Week 20, and remains in line with the normal average for this period, although elevated (current level: 2.75%; normal average: 2.0%).

Please stay vigilant, promote vaccination, and visit the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#).

## Contact Us:

**Florida Department of Health  
in Okaloosa County**

**Epidemiology Section**

**24/7 Disease Reporting:  
850-833-9065**

**Confidential Fax:**

**850-833-7577**

**[okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov](mailto:okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov)**

# COVID-19 Snapshot

## Week 20 Hospital Admission Level



COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population per Week
<b>LOW</b>	<b>2.2</b>

### PREVIOUS WEEK LEVEL: LOW

The Community Level has been retired with the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

As a replacement, COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level will be used as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community based on each level and individual or community focus.

For more information on the levels and recommended actions based on the current level, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage.

<b>HIGH</b>		≥ 20.0
<b>MEDIUM</b>		10.0 - 19.9
<b>LOW</b>		<10.0

## Week 20 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
<b>HIGH</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>10.4%</b>

### PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: MODERATE

<b>Low</b>	<10	<5.0%
<b>Moderate</b>	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
<b>Substantial</b>	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
<b>High</b>	>100	>10.0%

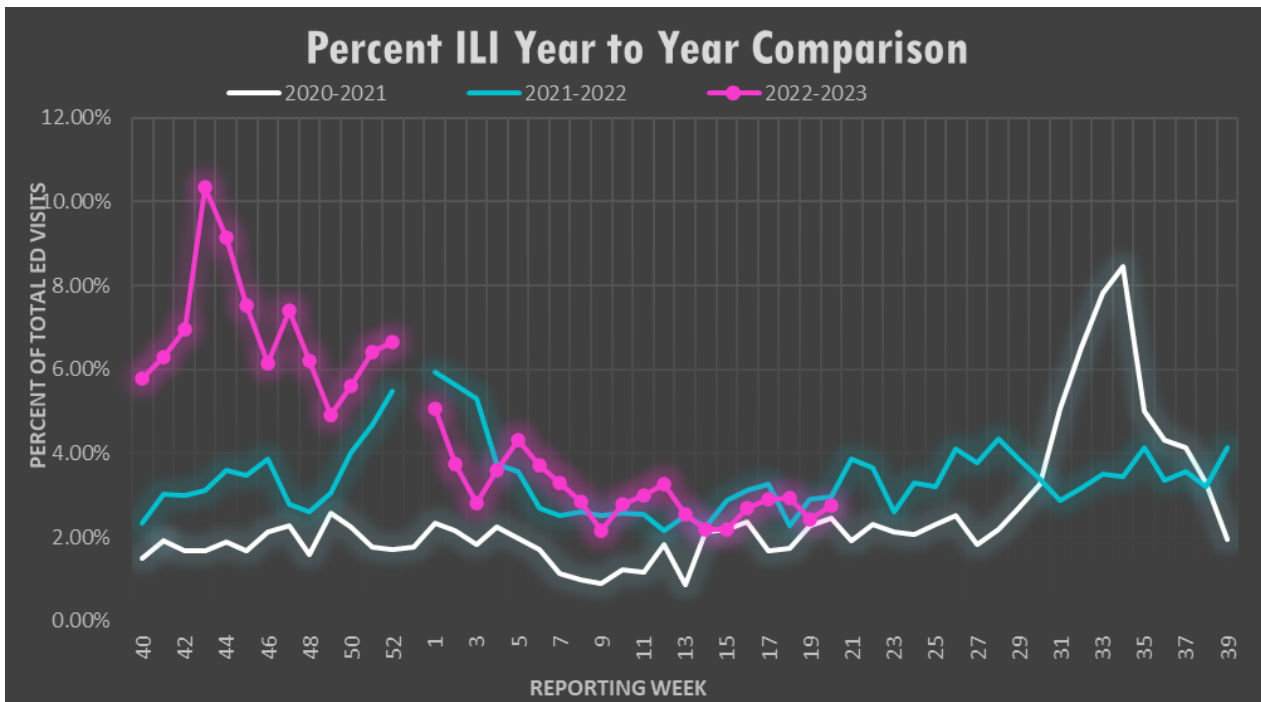
With the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, CDC no longer receives data needed to publish Community Transmission levels for SARS-CoV-2. However, DOH-Okaloosa will continue to report local numbers.



# Influenza-Like Illness

Week 20: May 14 - May 20

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.



**Figure 2:** Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa County for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

**ANALYSIS:** During Week 20, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported an increase in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County decreased this week (2.42% during Week 19 to 2.75% during Week 20). Flu partners reported 6 positive rapid flu test this week (1 Influenza A and 5 Influenza B). There have been no specimens submitted to the state lab over the past three weeks. There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 20 is lower than that of Week 20 last year.

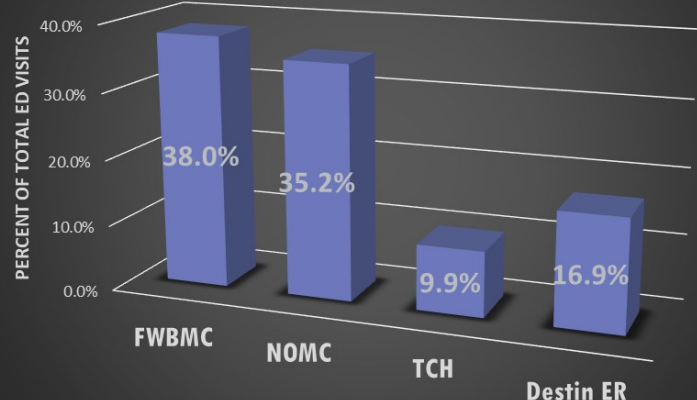
*Note:* Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

## % ILI by Age Group Week 20, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	21	209	10.05%
5-19	21	314	6.69%
20-34	13	553	2.35%
35-54	13	613	2.12%
55-74	3	573	0.52%
75+	0	317	0.00%

Data Source: ESSENCE

## % of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 20, 2023



**Figure 3:** Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=71). Data source: ESSENCE



# Syndromic Surveillance

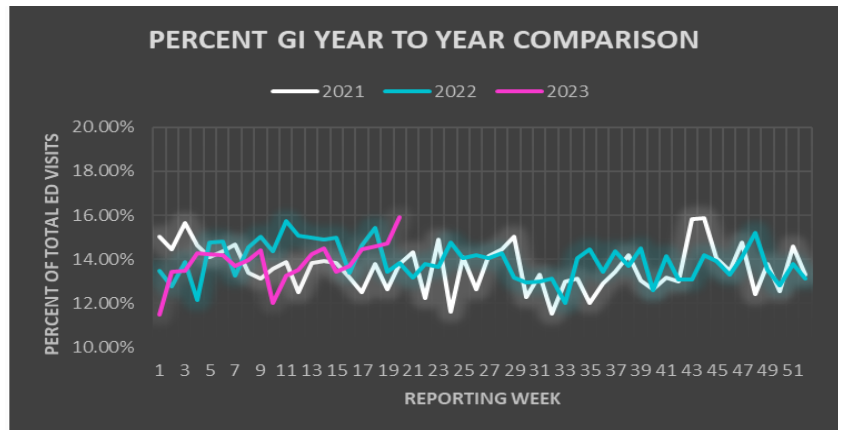
Week 20: May 14 - May 20

## Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

**Figure 4:**

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

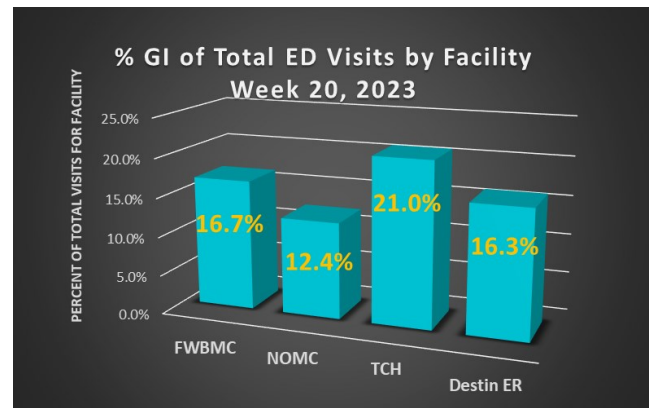


% GI by Age Group Week 20, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	46	209	22.01%
5-19	55	314	17.52%
20-34	113	553	20.43%
35-54	99	613	16.15%
55-74	63	573	10.99%
75+	35	317	11.04%

**Figure 5:**

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

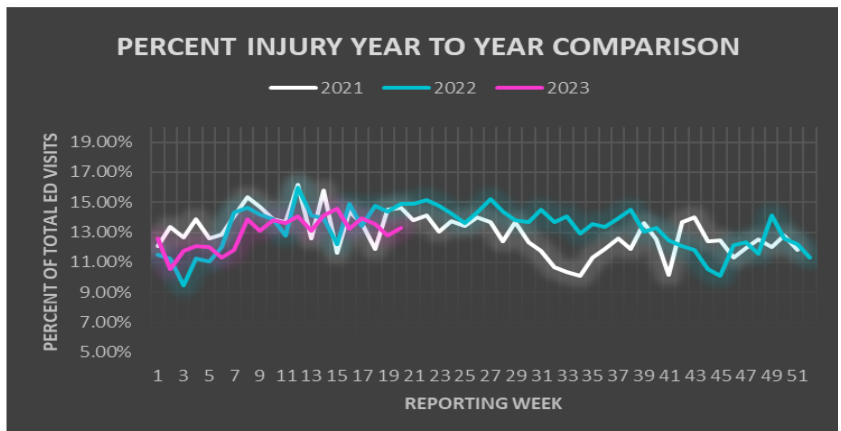


## Injury

**Figure 6:**

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

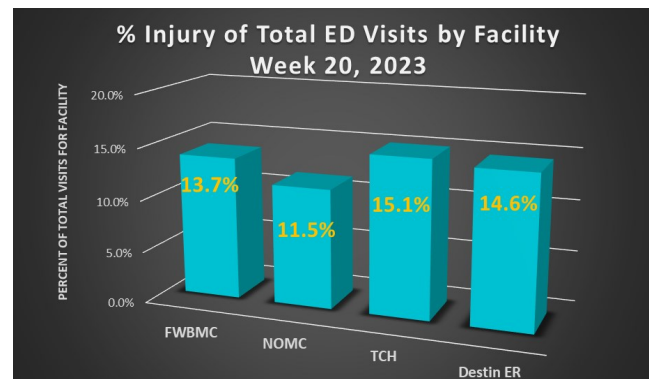


% Injury by Age Group Week 20, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	22	209	10.53%
5-19	49	314	15.61%
20-34	61	553	11.03%
35-54	94	613	15.33%
55-74	60	573	10.47%
75+	58	317	18.30%

**Figure 7:**

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

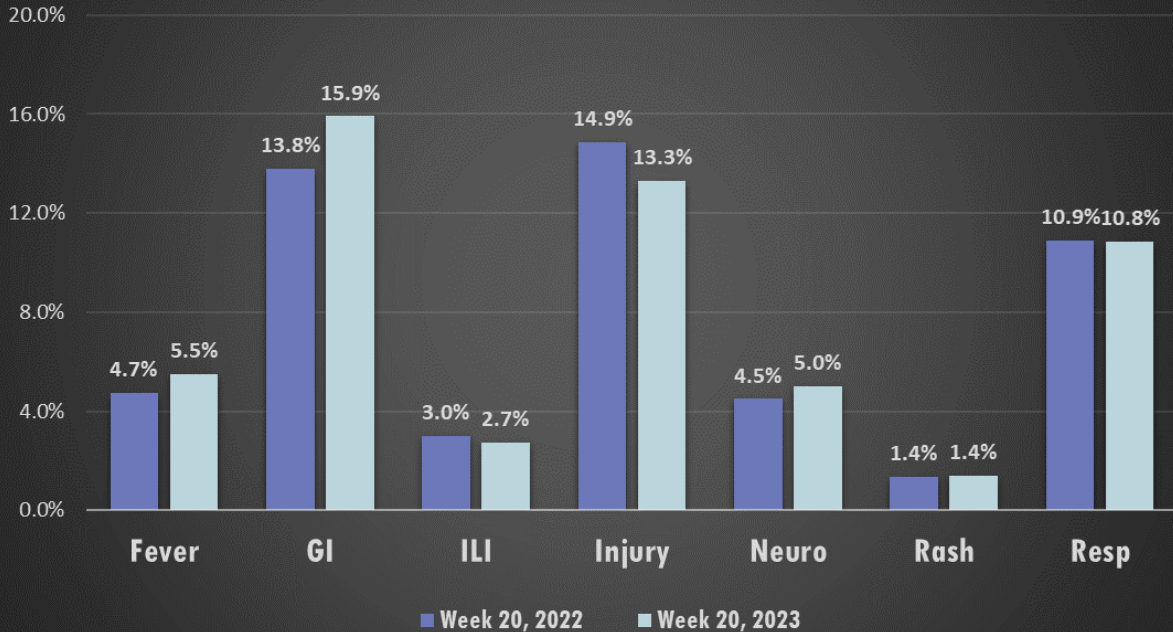




# Syndromic Surveillance

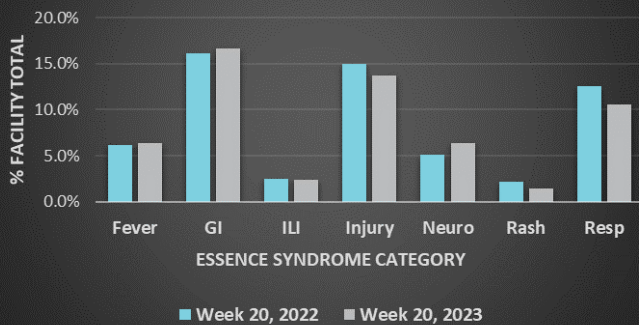
Week 20: May 14 - May 20

## Total ED Visits by Syndrome



**Figure 8:** Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 20 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2583). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

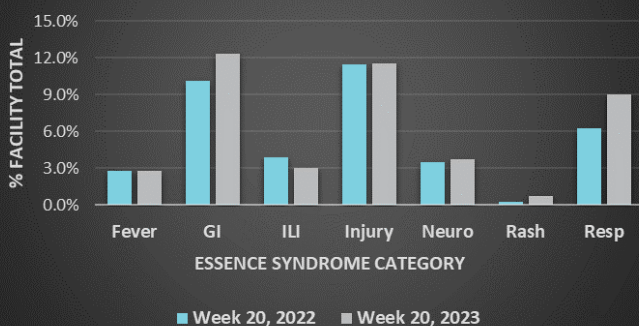
## Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



## Week 20- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	30
5-19	GI	26
20-34	GI	53
35-54	GI	46
55-74	INJURY	28
75+	INJURY	25

## North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



## Week 20- North Okaloosa Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	13
5-19	INJURY	14
20-34	GI	28
35-54	INJURY	28
55-74	RESP	25
75+	INJURY	15

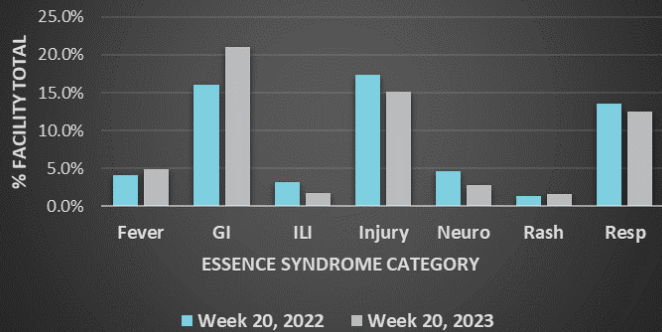




# Syndromic Surveillance

Week 20: May 14 - May 20

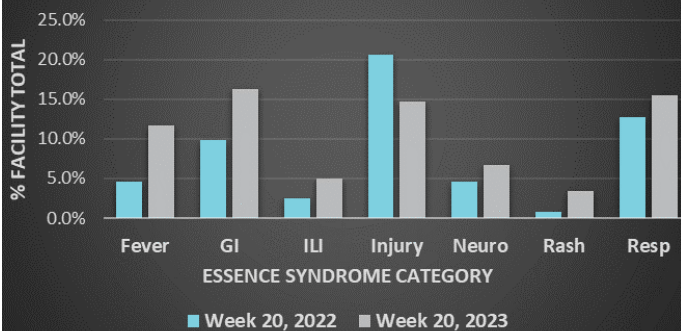
## Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



## Week 20 - Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	6
5-19	GI	11
20-34	GI	19
35-54	GI	18
55-74	GI	18
75+	INJURY	16

## DestinER ED Presentations



## Week 20 - Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	11
5-19	FEVER	8
20-34	GI	13
35-54	INJURY	13
55-74	INJURY	5
75+	RESP	6

## Week 20—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	FEVER
5-19	GI
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	GI
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE